

Slips of Artists.

It is a part of the seeming ill luck belonging to circumstance that an artist may spend time and genius on a piece of work and then fall conspicuously in some detail.

There is a story that one royal academicians gave a hand five fingers and a thumb and that another painted a live lobster bright red.

The clever Goodall had been engaged in painting a number of laborers dragging a huge stone across the desert, and a man of science, entering the studio, said to him:

"I say, Goodall, if you want those fellows to pull that stone you must double their number. It would take just twice as many."

But it is not modern painters alone who slip up on points of accuracy. Even Albert Durer, in a scene representing Peter denying Christ, painted one of the Roman soldiers in the act of smoking. Turner put a rainbow beside the sun, and in another picture he got woefully tangled in the ship's rigging.

Incident of the Reign of Terror.

A dramatic incident of the reign of terror in France was the saving of her father's life from the guillotine by Mile. de Sombreuil. M. de Sombreuil and his daughter were condemned to death at the time of the September massacres and were waiting in the cart, surrounded by the mob, for their turn to mount the scaffold. Mile. de Sombreuil turned to the crowd and asked what harm a weak old man like her father could do to the nation. Some of the men answered that if she would drink a glass of blood to the nation they would let him go and passed up a glass. She drank it down immediately. The crowd took her and her father from the cart. They escaped and made their way to England. She thought at the time she drank blood, but afterward she concluded that it was red wine, for she saw no one stoop to fill the glass. To her death she was never able, however, to see red wine in a glass without a shudder.

An Odd Will.

A correspondent sends us a copy of an old will on record in the office of the ordinary of Lumpkin county, Ga. After appointing three executors, he "solemnly" requests them "to law N. Nicholson to the full extent of the law. I impute my cramp colic to his injustice to me." He further requests that "they pay themselves and our attorneys and spend as much as is necessary in buying a slab, and place on it: 'Here lie the remains of S. Douglas Crane. Born the 8th of November, 1800, who served five years in the Georgia legislature and never lost a day and dies in the full faith of the Methodist doctrine and in full hope, to which church he wills \$50.'" In conclusion the testator requests "to be buried on the highest hill in the graveyard with the honors of war, a colonel's salute."—Law Notes.

A Pillar in Venice.

At a corner of St. Mark's church in Venice, the one nearest the ducal palace, there has been standing since the eleventh century a pillar of red porphyry carved with the portraits of four noble gentlemen of Albania. In fact they were brothers who went to Venice in a ship laden with vast wealth. One couple plotted against the other to secure all the treasure and at a feast each duo of plotters poisoned the other. The signory of Venice seized upon their goods. In commemoration of so unbrotherly a conspiracy and as a warning against avarice the unique and exquisitely carved pillar was erected.

The Sudanese Baby.

A Sudanese baby when dressed up in its best clothes is probably the most uncomfortable infant in the world. The coat or outer garment which fashion dictates should be worn reaches to the very heels. It is of heavy velvet, hanging in many folds. This, in turn, is adorned with countless buttons and bangles of brass, considerably adding to its weight. Its cap, in turn, is of the same material, similarly decorated and doubtless equally uncomfortable.

The Coconut.

Many pagan people regard the coconut as of divine origin because it is so useful. It supplies almost all their needs. With its trunk they build houses, with its leaves they thatch their roofs, the fiber of its shell they weave into clothes, the hard wood of the nuts they cut into bowls and saucers, its rind is their food, its milk is their drink, and its narcotic root they dry and smoke.

Sport in Ancient Rome.

In the palmy days of Rome the number of lions brought from Africa averaged 400 per year for nine years, and with these were leopards, tigers, hyenas, elephants, buffaloes and serpents almost without number. For several years there were 8,000 men employed in Africa in trapping wild animals to make sport for the people of Rome.

Extreme Curiosity.

The fourteen-year-old son of a respectable Jew in Warsaw hanged himself the other day. He left a note, saying: "I have hanged myself out of mere curiosity. I could not help myself. I had to find out what they were doing in the other world."—Jewish World.

Both Took Pains.

Young Wife—I took great pains with that cucumber salad, John, and I hope you enjoyed it. Husband (anxiously)—I'm afraid, my dear, that I took great pains with it too.

Emphatic.

First Clubman—A physician should take life easy.
Second Clubman—Some of them do.—Schoolmaster.

Nightcap Privileges.

Queen Mary's kindness took a very odd form in the case of the Earl of Sussex. He was a valetudinarian who had a great fear of uncovering his head lest he should take cold. Accordingly he petitioned Queen Mary for leave to wear his nightcap in her royal presence.

Her majesty, in her abundant grace, granted his petition twice over. His patent for this privilege is perhaps unique in royal annals: "Know ye that we do give our beloved and trusty cousin and counselor, Henry, earl of Sussex, Viscount Fitzwalter and lord of Egremund and Furnell, license and pardon to wear his cape or nightcap, or any two of them, at his pleasure, as well in our presence as in the presence of any other person or persons within this realm or any other place in our dominions wheresoever during his life, and these our letters shall be sufficient warrant in his behalf."

Shocks From False Teeth.

"False teeth have been known to generate electricity in the mouth and shock their wearer painfully," said a dentist. "Only last week a gentleman came to me and said he feared he was getting a cancer on his tongue. 'Such severe shooting pains attack me,' he said, 'that often I utter loud oaths in the most unseemly places—at teas, before the minister, and so on. It is like knife thrusts. Do you think I am going to lose my tongue?' I found that two different metals had been used in fixing the poor man's false teeth. These metals, combining with the saliva, had formed a small battery. Electricity generated in the battery continually, and shock after shock was administered to the tongue. I painted the metal with an insulating varnish. Thereafter the man had no more trouble."—New York Press.

Origin of Dominoes.

Two monks who had been committed to a lengthy seclusion beguiled the dreary hours of their confinement with a game played by shoving each other small flat stones marked with black dots. By a preconcerted arrangement the winner would inform the other player of his victory by repeating in an undertone the first line of the vesper prayer. In process of time the two monks managed to complete the set of stones and to perfect the rules of the game, so that when the term of incarceration had expired the game was so interesting that it was generally adopted by all the inmates of the monastery as a lawful pastime. It very soon spread from town to town and became popular throughout Italy, and the first line of the vespers was reduced to the single word "Domino," by which name the game has ever since been known.

Reasoning Power of Animals.

Men apparently conceive ideas from a "clear sky," but such genius could not manifest itself were not the mind already highly cultivated by much conscious effort—reasoning—and experience. On the other hand, animals and small children become conscious of much knowledge by merely witnessing the intelligent movements of others, and in time, without thought or effort on their part, they suddenly discover that they also are competent to do the same thing, or, in other words, they begin to imitate. It is a general impression among psychologists that animals probably do not reason; they have no ideas as we have.—A. F. Shore in Scientific American.

Won't Eat Possum.

A human being is a queer animal after all. We eat possums and pay fancy prices for them, yet a vulture will not touch one. During a long season of snow some years ago a farmer said the buzzards in his locality were almost starved, and to test the matter he killed a possum and put it out where he could be easily found. The vultures would not touch it though they examined the carcass. Not satisfied, the farmer cooked another possum up brown and spread it out, but the buzzards declined the feast.—Greensboro (Tenn.) Record.

Fourpence a Grab.

London possesses a curiosity in the Southwark market, which is said to have been held regularly for over 300 years. It is little known except in the neighborhood where it is held—viz, near Blackfriars bridge. Originally the eels sold were caught off Blackfriars bridge, but now they come mostly from Holland and Scotland. They are not sold by weight, as is usual, but by the handful, the price being "fourpence the grab."

A Bird That Likes Pretty Things.

The primal parent bower bird was born with a vim streak. This remarkable bird decks its home nest with all sorts of ornaments, feathers, bits of wood, etc., and when it is in captivity any objects which its keeper may throw in the cage are utilized for ornaments—pieces of cloth, glass and other rubbish.

A Personal Matter.

She—How did you were not at the Westends' reception? He—I stayed away on account of a personal matter. She—May I ask what it was? He—Will you promise to keep it a secret? She—Yes. He—Well they failed to send me an invitation.

Subtlety.

Client—Is this a cause so bad or an individual so famous that your services could not be obtained? Lawyer (thoughtfully)—cannot say offhand. What have you been doing?—London King.

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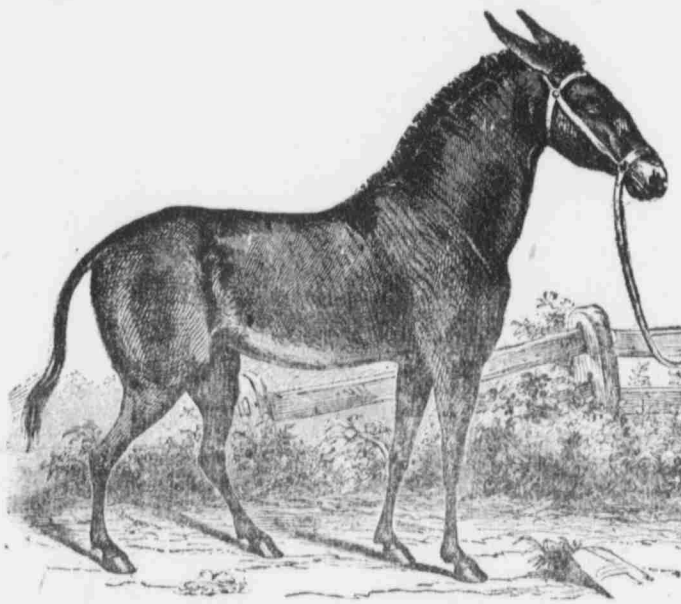
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